

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,515

Examiner

Allen C. Ho

Applicant(s)

SHERMAN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 30 October 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 30102003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- (1) Paragraph [0051], line 1, "100" has been replaced by --130--.
- (2) Paragraph [0053], line 1, "109" has been replaced by --130--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-33 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1-12, the prior art fails to disclose a sensor array having an active side comprising a positioning structure on the active side essentially transparent to the particular form of energy, the positioning structure comprising a plurality of spaced compressible posts or tubes configured to compressively and frictionally engage with a complementary mounting structure as claimed.

With regard to claims 13-23, the prior art fails to disclose a detector array kit comprising a positioning structure on the active side that is essentially transparent to the particular form of energy, the positioning structure comprising a plurality of spaced compressible posts and tubes configured to compressively and frictionally engage with a complementary mounting structure,

and a complementary mounting structure essentially transparent to the particular form of energy as claimed.

With regard to claims 24-27, the prior art fails to disclose a detector array kit comprising a positioning structure on the active side that is essentially transparent to the particular form of energy, the positioning structure comprising a plurality of spaced compressible posts and tubes configured to compressively and frictionally engage with a complementary mounting structure, and a unitary complementary mounting structure essentially transparent to the particular form of energy and having a plurality of planar segments that meet at angles as claimed.

With regard to claims 28-30, although the prior art discloses a computed tomography imaging apparatus comprising a rotating gantry, an x-ray source on the rotating gantry, a table, and a detector array on the rotating gantry, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the detector array comprising a positioning structure on the active side that is essentially transparent to the particular form of energy, the positioning structure comprising a plurality of spaced compressible posts and tubes configured to compressively and frictionally engage with a complementary mounting structure, and a unitary complementary mounting structure essentially transparent to the particular form of energy and having a plurality of planar segments that meet at angles as claimed.

With regard to claims 31-33, although the prior art discloses a method for repairing a detector array comprising the steps of disengaging a first sensor array and compressively and frictionally engaging a second sensor array in place of the first sensor array, it fails to teach or fairly suggest that the sensor array comprises a positioning structure on the active side that is essentially transparent to the particular form of energy, the positioning structure comprising a

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plurality of spaced compressible posts and tubes configured to compressively and frictionally engage with a complementary mounting structure essentially transparent to the particular form of energy as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- (1) Nelewaika (U. S. Patent No. 6,883,963 B2) disclosed a method of repairing a sensor array by exchanging a first sensor array for a second sensor array.
- (2) Wainer *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,621,084 B1) disclosed a tileable sensor array.
- (3) Chappo *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,510,195 B1) disclosed a tileable sensor array.
- (4) Saito *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,396,898 B1) disclosed a detector module.
- (5) Monnet *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,465,790 B1) disclosed a tileable sensor array.
- (6) Ashburn (U. S. Patent No. 5,742,060) disclosed a tileable sensor array.
- (7) Cox *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 5,464,984) disclosed a tileable sensor array.
- (8) Sato *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 5,248,885) disclosed a sensor array comprising an interposer.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached at (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Allen C. Ho
Primary Examiner
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01 September 2005